

HORTICULTURE



Preparing Orchard Land.

The land should be cultivated for two or three years and freed of all wild sod and weeds before it is set to orchard, says O. M. Morris, of the Oklahoma station. The land should be plowed deep so as to give as deep soil as possible. Most of the prairie soil in Oklahoma is very poor in humus or decaying vegetable matter. Such lands should be well manured before the orchard is set. The manure should be scattered evenly over the field and turned under with the turning plow. The practice of applying large quantities of manure in places where the tree is to stand can not be recommended. This practice of uneven manuring is usually carried out in one of two ways. The manure is applied very thickly in the immediate vicinity of the tree and worked into the soil or it is thrown in dead furrows that are made in the row where the trees are to be set, and then covered. The manure will decay faster if evenly distributed over the land. The trees will gather food from all directions and form a better root system. Where the fertilizer is unevenly distributed, the roots seek the most fertile soil and are developed there in greatest numbers. As a result the water is taken out of such places very fast and in dry weather these spots dry out and the greater part of the root system is left without water. Trees set on such land will always suffer more for water than on soil evenly fertilized. Subsoiling is beneficial on soil that has a hard clay subsoil. Throwing out a deep dead furrow where the row of trees is to stand and then filling again after the trees are set is often of value both to loosen the subsoil and to help drain the land. These furrows should run up and down the hill and be as deep as is possible to make them with the tools at hand. The water that stands on the ground seldom does any harm to the trees, but the soil becomes packed and in a little dry spell bakes and dries out very rapidly. A short time before the trees are set the land should be stirred deep and the soil well pulverized and left in a smooth, level condition free from dead furrows and ridges.

When to Water the Horse.

The effects of watering horses before, during and after feeding have been studied by a good many horse-men, but the conclusions arrived at have not been always uniform. In a general way it may be said that the time of watering does not have any appreciable effect on the digestion of a ration of hay and grain. When hay is fed alone there is a slight gain in digestibility in watering after feeding, and it is believed that when grain is fed the watering should be done before feeding. The time of watering has, however, a marked effect on the amount of water drunk and the amount excreted. The amount is greatest when horses are watered after feeding and smallest when they are watered before feeding, under normal conditions of exercise and temperature. When water is offered before feeding, horses frequently refuse it. The manner of watering does not appear to change the composition of the faeces. In the case of heavy exercise preceding the feeding, water should be supplied before that feeding, apparently for the reason that a good deal of moisture has passed out of the animal's body in the exercise and a certain amount is needed in helping the stomach perform its functions. If an animal has become accustomed to one way of watering it should be continued, as the animal does not readily take to a change in this regard.

ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

Japanese Engage Ports and Warships.

Reports indicate that the battle on the Yalu was a complete defeat for the Russians.

There is an unconfirmed report that the Japanese have captured New Chwang and that the Russians have been routed.

In another sea battle of Port Arthur the Japanese lost a number of vessels. Fireships were sent into the harbor, but failed to accomplish the purpose intended.

From 3,000 to 4,000 Russians are reported to have been killed in the battle on the Yalu.

Another Japanese fleet is reported to have been sighted off Port Arthur.

PORT ARTHUR—A Japanese squadron appeared off Port Arthur after daybreak and engaged the forts and warships. The fight is still proceeding.

Thirty Japanese prisoners have been captured.

At 1 o'clock in the morning five Japanese torpedo boats were sighted. The Russian land batteries, the gunboat Gillak with the coast defense vessels Grimischi and Otvashni opened fire and compelled them to retire. Immediately afterwards other Japanese ships were sighted on the horizon. They were headed by a fireship, which was sunk near the entrance of the harbor at 1:20 a. m. After an interval of twenty-five minutes two more fireships came on and were sent to the bottom.

At 2:25 four more fireships approached. Three of these blew up on our mines. Two of these sank immediately and the other two fireships were sunk by the batteries and warships.

The protected cruiser Askoid participated in the firing. Fifteen minutes later three more fireships arrived. One of them blew up on a mine, the second was wrecked on the shore and the third was sunk by the Russian shells.

The crews of the Japanese fireships which were sunk while attempting to block the channel tried to save themselves in boats in which they put out to sea. A majority of them were killed by the Russian machine guns and rifles. Some of the survivors were picked up.

At daybreak a number of Japanese were seen clinging to the masts and funnels of the sunken vessels and these were rescued by the Russians. Thirteen of the wounded Japanese have since died. The Russians supplied the survivors with food and clothing and the wounded were taken to the hospital ship Mongolia.

During the morning ten of the enemy's torpedo boats remained in the offing and were fired on at long range. At 5:30 o'clock it was signalled that there was a Japanese fleet in the vicinity and that two of the enemy's launches had been run ashore. The town is quiet. Large crowds watched the morning's operations with great interest.

ROOSEVELT WILL NOT SPEAK.

Several Members of the Cabinet Will Go on the Stump.

WASHINGTON.—Questions relating to the Panama canal, general politics and departmental matters were the subjects under consideration at the meeting of the cabinet Friday.

While the president himself does not expect to deliver political speeches during the approaching campaign, it is said that several members of the cabinet will take an active part in the contest. Secretaries Taft, Shaw, Moody, Wilson and Attorney General Knox are all expected to deliver important speeches, and some of them will speak many times. It is said, also, that Speaker Cannon will make an extensive tour of the country, campaigning wherever his services seem to be needed most.

AN ILLINOIS FARMER IN WESTERN CANADA.

A recent issue of the Shelbyville, Illinois, Democrat contains a long and interesting letter from Mr. Elias Kost, formerly a prosperous farmer of that state, who recently emigrated to Western Canada, taking up a claim for himself and for each of his three sons.

From Mr. Kost's letter, which was written Feb. 3, 1904, we publish the following, believing it will prove of great interest to those who have contemplated settling in the Canadian Northwest:

"I had in August, 1902, secured a claim for myself, and filed on three quarter sections for my sons. My claim is one-half mile south of the Edmonton and Lake St. Anne trail.

"Coming so late in the season we had little opportunity to break and to prepare ground for a first year's crop, still we raised over 100 bushels of very fine potatoes, and sowed a few acres of barley, but the season was too far advanced for the barley. However, we secured good feed from it, and on rented ground 18 miles east of us, raised a fine crop of oats, so that we will have plenty of feed for horses. We cut about 60 tons of hay and thus will have an abundance. We have, all told, about 240 acres of hay meadow, which would yield the past year over three tons to the acre, and in an ordinary season the meadow would furnish 600 tons of hay. The grass is very nutritious, and cattle on the ranges become very fat without being fed a pound of grain.

"On the upland the grass grows from eight to ten inches tall. This is called range grass, and is suitable for stock at any time, even in the winter when the ground is not covered too deep with snow. Horses subsist on it alone, at all times, provided they are native stock. The grass in the hay meadows here is called red-top, and grows from five to six feet in length, and when cut at the proper time yields an abundant crop of nutritious hay.

"Our cattle have not cost us a cent since we came on our homestead, only the small outlay for salt and labor in putting up hay and shelter. All cattle have been doing well this winter, and feeding up to the first of January was unnecessary, as there was good range up to that time.

"All the snows up to that date were followed by winds from the northwest that melts it very rapidly; these winds are called Chinook winds, and are always warm. In one night a Chinook wind may take away three or four inches of snow.

"We have built on our claim a comfortable house of hewn logs, 20x26 feet, one and one-half stories in height, with a good cellar. During the latter part of June we rafted logs down the Sturgeon to a sawmill, about eight miles away, and thus secured 5,000 feet of good lumber which was needed for the house. Later in the season a shingle mill located six miles away. To this we hauled logs and had shingles cut for the roof.

"We had an abundance of wild fruit the past season, consisting of gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, eye-berries, blueberries, cherries and saskatoons. The latter are a fine looking berry, red, and quite pleasant to the taste, but not much to be desired in cookery. The strawberries are the same as those that grow wild in Illinois. Raspberries are red in color, large and equal to any of the tame varieties, and so are the gooseberries. The cranberries consist of the high and trailing varieties. The latter are most sought and contiguous to the swamps. The ground is literally covered with them as with a red carpet, but the best and most sought is the blueberry, so called by the Indians. This is the famous 'huckleberry' (whortleberry) of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Pennsylvania, and cannot be excelled for excellence by any fruit cultivated. It is found here both on the prairie and in the timber in immense quantities.

"Game is very plentiful so far as prairie chickens, pheasants, ducks of

all kinds, and geese are concerned. We have taken nearly 500 chickens and pheasants, also a great many ducks.

"An occasional deer is seen, but are not plentiful, only one having been taken during the season in this settlement.

"Fish are very plentiful at all seasons of the year. Fish wagons and sleds are passing almost daily along the trail with heavy loads of fish, destined for St. Albert and Edmonton. From the latter point they are shipped south on the Calgary and Edmonton railroad to points along the line, and also to Assiniboia, on the Canadian Pacific railroad."

For further information apply to any authorized Canadian Government Agent whose address appears elsewhere in this paper.

Joke On General Miles.

General Miles was standing in the lobby of the Arlington the other night, and happened to overhear a remark made by a small, thin young man who was standing near. "During the Spanish war," the young man said, "I took five Spanish officers without any assistance from the army or navy." "What's that?" asked General Miles, turning upon him abruptly, "you say you took five Spanish officers without the assistance of the army or navy!" "That's exactly what I said, sir," replied the young man; "by myself and without any loss of blood. It happened at Boston. Here is my card. I am Smallsmith, the photographer. Now, if you will allow me to pose you, General _____," but the general had fled.

Causing Iron to Swim.

Elisha required a stick to make the ax of iron swim. We have never learned the properties of that stick. But there is a pretty trick of causing a piece of iron to swim of its own accord. Let it be a half inch thick, say, and two inches square, or have it round, and perfectly smooth on one side at least. Place the smooth side against the perfectly smooth, square end of an open glass tube, say an inch and a half in diameter, and hold it there until it and the tube are lowered into a vessel of water to a depth greater than about eight times the thickness of the iron. Remove the hand and the iron will remain in its place, the upward pressure of the water preventing its sinking. This is the principle of the iron ship.

A "J. P." that Fined Himself.

Robert Malzahn, justice of the peace at Good Thunder, Minn., dispenses liquor at retail when not occupied with his judicial cares. A food inspector secured from Mr. Malzahn's place of business a sample of blackberry. A complaint was sworn out and Judge Malzahn in his judicial capacity, heard the case of Malzahn, the saloonkeeper. Finding Malzahn, the defendant, guilty, Judge Malzahn imposed a fine of \$25, and then as Malzahn, the saloonkeeper, he paid the fine. The money has been remitted to the state treasurer.

To be truthful and polite at the same time sometimes puts a rubber attachment on your conscience.

Any man who is continually making a fool of himself must be a natural born tautologist.

Piso's Cure cannot be too highly spoken of as a cough cure.—J. W. O'BRIEN, 322 Third Ave., N., Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 6, 1900.

The people who have seen better days did it with a telescope.

ALL UP-TO-DATE HOUSEKEEPERS Use Red Cross Ball Blue. It makes clothes clean and sweet as when new. All grocers.

A man can make his wife believe almost anything—during their honeymoon.

Try me just once and I am sure to come again. Defiance Starch.